

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /066 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:FJCRAWFORD:BKM

APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER

ARA:GMONSMA (DRAFT)

ARA/CCA:WSIMMONS (DRAFT)

ARA/CEN:LKILDAY (DRAFT)

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P R 132239Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 008359

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, SHUM

SUBJECT:32ND SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; FEBRUARY 2-
MARCH 5, 1976: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH USUAL PROCEDURE THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) ROTATES AMONG THE
REGIONAL GROUPINGS. THIS YEAR IS LATIN AMERICA'S TURN.
THE LA MEMBERS NOW ON THE HRC ARE CUBA, COSTA RICA,
ECUADOR, PANAMA, PERU, AND URUGUAY. NONE AS FAR AS THE
DEPARTMENT IS AWARE HAS SIGNIFIED AN INTENTION TO BE A
CANDIDATE NOR HAS THERE BEEN ANY WORD OF PREFERENCES AMONG
THE LA'S.

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2. IF NO OTHER LA'S PUT THEMSELVES FORWARD, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CUBA WOULD MOVE TO FILL THE VOID AND, EMERGING AS THE LA CANDIDATE BY DEFAULT AS IT WERE, BE VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF ELECTION. THE US WOULD REGARD CUBA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF A MEETING DEVOTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS A GREAT IRONY.

3. IN ORDER TO FORESTALL SUCH A SITUATION USUN IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH THE COSTA RICAN MISSION IN CONFIDENCE TO FIND OUT (1) WHAT, IF ANY, CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AMONG THE LA'S; (2) IF THERE IS NOW NO NON-CUBAN CANDIDACY WHETHER COSTA RICA WOULD BE WILLING TO PUT

ITSELF FORWARD AS A CANDIDATE; AND (3) IF COSTA RICA IS UNWILLING WHETHER IT WOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN PROMOTING AN LA CANDIDATE OTHER THAN CUBA.

4. FROM US POINT OF VIEW COSTA RICA WOULD BE IDEAL CANDIDATE IN TERMS OF ITS LONG IDENTIFICATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND ITS GENERAL ACCEPTABILITY TO LA'S, BUT OTHER LA MEMBERS OF THE HRC WOULD ALSO BE PREFERABLE TO CUBA. MILITATING AGAINST COSTA RICAN CANDIDACY IS FACT THAT IT HAS ALREADY HAD CHAIRMANSHIP (1966), AS HAS ECUADOR (1964), WHILE OTHER LA'S ON HRC HAVE NOT.

5. BECAUSE OF SHORT TIME BEFORE HRC SESSION DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE URGENT REPLY SO AS TO ALLOW TIME TO TAKE UP QUESTION IN LA CAPITALS IF NECESSARY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETING CHAIRMAN, DEMARCHE, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE008359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FJCRAWFORD:BKM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760012-0751
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760161/aaaaccbs.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 2ND SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION; FEBRUARY 2- MARCH 5, 1976: ELECTION OF OFFICERS
TAGS: SHUM, XM, US
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006